

- a2
cont.
51. (New) The method, according to claim 49, wherein, when the selected portion of tissue is drawn into the tissue receiving chamber in step (c), the selected portion of tissue is folded over so that two full thickness portions of the tissue are received between the anvil and the stapling mechanism.

CONCLUSION

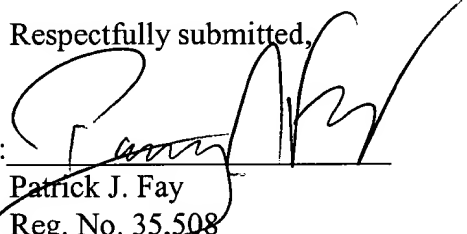
It is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are new, nonobvious and useful and that the present application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a prompt and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (212) 898-8873 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

No fee is believed to be required. However, if any fee is required, or to credit any overpayment, please use the deposit account of Fay Kaplun & Marcin, deposit Account No. 50-1492. A copy of this sheet is enclosed for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 29, 2001

By:


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